

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Thirty-eighth Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2005

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HIHWNMS Conference Room

Honolulu, Hawaii

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance

Primary Council Members Present:

Jim Coon, Bill Friedl, June Harrigan-Lum, Dave Hoffman, Becky Hommon, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Eric Kingma, Jill Komoto, Marc Lammers, Teri Leicher, Naomi McIntosh, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Dick Poirier, Jeanne Russell, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Don Thornburg, Jeff Walters, Terry White, Michelle Yuen.

Alternate Council Members Present:

Rich Brunner, Andy Collins (for `Aulani Wilhelm), Mary Donohue, Duane Erway, Donna Goodale, Hank Janpol (for Lou Herman), Adam Pack, Terry Rice (for Bob Wilson), Cheryl Sterling (for Richard McCarty), Mike Watson, Reg White.

Excused:

Cindy Barger, Athline Clark, Liz Corbin, Nancy Daschbach, Lou Herman, Richard McCarty, Jerry Norris, John Reghi, `Aulani Wilhelm, Bob Wilson.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Charlie Alexander, Keeley Belva, Chris Brammer, David Nichols, Jean Souza, Allen Tom, Susan Vogt, Evan Weinberg, Paul Wong.

PUBLIC: Rob Parsons, Jeff Pollock, Kate Wynne

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Final Meeting Minutes (09/08/04)
- Meeting Action Items
- Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Hawai'i County Report
- Kauai County Report
- Education Committee Report
- Research Committee Report

- Maui Mayor Arakawa's Statement to Public Utilities Commission regarding Hawaii Superferry
- Hawai'i County Alternate, Duane Erway's comments for Hawaii Superferry
- Draft Budget Resolution to the Hawaii State Legislature
- Council's Budget Resolution
- Draft Resolution for Bill Lennan
- Summary of the Council Retreat
- Case Study for the NMSP Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting
- HIIHWNMS Calendar
- National Marine Educators Association Calendar and Call for Presentations
- HIIHWNMS SAC Member Directory
- NMSP SAC Member Directory

Call to Order

The purpose of this meeting are to: focus the Council on the goals and strategies that were developed at the Council Retreat and Planning Meeting held in December 2004 and to provide structure for a stronger foundation for Council efforts for 2005.

Following a *pule* (traditional Hawaiian blessing) offered by Kimokeo Kapahulehua the Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council) Chair, Jim Coon, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Sara Peck took roll as members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2004 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum

Council Chair, Jim Coon, requested and received permission from the Council to postpone the public forum until just before the discussions related to the Hawaii Superferry.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

Chair's Report:

Mr. Coon began by reviewing the report from the 2nd Annual Advisory Council Retreat and Strategic Planning Session. He reviewed the goals that were developed for the upcoming year. Mr. Coon also discussed the purpose of the chairs and coordinators meeting and informed the Council about the case study that was prepared for the meeting. Mr. Coon notified the Council that he went to the State Legislature on behalf of the Council and was able to meet with the chiefs of staffs of many of the legislators. He delivered packets containing information on the Sanctuary and the Council, as well as purposed draft resolution on funding (see Attachment 1). Mr. Coon felt that it was an effective

initiative and that his visits were well received. He continued with the highlights from the Action Item report (see Attachment 2). Jim also informed everyone about the newly established Executive Committee which was created during the second day of the Council retreat and consists of Council Officers and chairs of the Council committees and working groups.

Sanctuary Manager:

Naomi McIntosh submitted a written report (see attachment 3). Ms. McIntosh welcomed all of the newly selected members, whom attended an orientation meeting via conference call the first week of January. She mentioned that the Sanctuary's calendar of events is in the packets of information handed out at today's meeting, and informed the Council about staff changes at the Maui office. Ms. McIntosh also told everyone about the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) conference that will be held on Maui in July 2005 adding that they could find more information on the NMEA website.

Sanctuary Co-Manager:

Sanctuary Co-Manager, Dr. Jeffrey Walters, submitted a written report (see attachment 4). Dr. Walters highlighted that West Hawaii Programs Coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, has been spending time on various education and outreach projects around the island of Hawaii. Dr. Walters has also been focusing on Boater Outreach efforts, including working with Hawaii Ocean Safety Team (HOST) and their Safety at Sea committee. The group gave input on products that the Sanctuary developed with advice from the Council, including a sign to be posted at small boat ramps around the state and an information card that could be distributed by HOST. Council members suggested additional harbors that the sign could be posted at besides the seven that are planned for this season. Dr. Walters explained that these signs would be up during whale season along with an informational sign about the Sanctuary that will be developed later and stated that the Education Committee would have a chance to review it. The information sign will stay up all year, whereas the boater safety sign will only be displayed throughout whale season. Some Council members expressed interest in an electronic (pdf) version of the sign for additional posting.

Conservation Committee:

No report was submitted.

Research Committee:

Marc Lammers, Research Committee Chair, submitted a written report (see attachment 5). Dr. Lammers mentioned that there would be a joint Research and Conservation Committee meeting that will be held after today's Council meeting.

Education Committee:

Jeanne Russell, Education Committee Chair, submitted a written report (see attachment 6). She highlighted a few of the items contained in her report.

Honolulu County:

No report was submitted.

Kaua'i County:

No report was submitted.

Maui County:

No report was submitted, however Fishing Representative Kimokeo Kapahulehua took a few moments to highlight some recent Sanctuary events on Maui. Mr. Kapahulehua mentioned that Sanctuary volunteer, John Mitchell, would be helping administer a BWET grant that the Fishpond Association of Maui received for restoration of the fishpond adjacent to HIHWNMS's Maui site. Mr. Kapahulehua also said that many Maui County citizens are concerned with not only the Hawaii Superferry proposal, but also with the increasing numbers of cruise ships, and he commended Hawaii Superferry for holding public hearings. Mr. Kapahulehua also updated the Council on a few other topics that Maui County residents have been discussing including installation of a boat pump-out station at Maalaea Harbor with the support of Pacific Whale Foundation, plans for installation of additional day-use moorings around south Maui, plans for making the Carthaginian an artificial reef, increased use of Manale Bay on Lanai, and enforcement efforts by the Kohoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). Mr. Kapahulehua suggested that the SAC look into making a recommendation to support increased funding for enforcement on Kohoolawe, as these protected waters adjoin the Sanctuary waters.

Hawai'i County:

Hawai'i County Representative, Sara Peck, submitted a written report (see attachment 7). She mentioned that Sea Grant has been working on sustainable coastal communities and that many residents of Hawaii are also concerned about overuse and over population.

Vessel Collision Working Group:

No report was submitted.

Presentation on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Allen Tom, Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator, gave an update on the status of the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) budget for FY05, and said that funding for the NMSP has actually increased, mostly due to the support of the United States Senate and specifically efforts by the Hawaii Congressional representatives. He also announced that the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is hosting a reception on July 14th at the Maui Ocean Center in conjunction with the NMEA conference and that all of the Council members are invited to attend. Mr. Tom explained that the NMSP is growing and thus is

moving to a regional structure in order to help manage the programs more efficiently. He explained that the Pacific Islands Region includes HIHWNMS, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and that the region has its own operating budget. Mr. Tom explained that having a GIS program was a priority for all of the sites and he introduced Susan Vogt, who is the Pacific Islands Regional GIS Coordinator. He explained that she was originally hired on a part time basis, but quickly moved to full time, and now has Evan Weinberg as an assistant.

Susan Vogt gave a presentation about the GIS program that included general information about GIS, as well as what types of projects she has been working on and what could be applicable in the future. Ms. Vogt explained that GIS is used to overlay different data layers, ie. Bathymetry, elevation, sanctuary boundaries, whales sightings. Mr. Coon suggested that this type of information might be helpful for the Sanctuary Change Committee's effort in looking into adding species.

Public Comment

The Council Chair then asked for any comments from the public.

- Duane Erway submitted some comments regarding the possible use of High Frequency Marine Mammal Monitoring sonar by Hawaii Superferry. He also asked Hawaii Superferry to provide information regarding maneuverability and marine mammal detection capabilities of the ship.
- Some discussion among the Council followed about acoustic problems with sonar. Dr. Lammers said that we needed to be very careful about qualifying acoustic problems, as there is very little research on the subject.

Discussion on the Hawaii Superferry

Terry White, Commercial Shipping Representative and Hawaii Superferry Chief Operating Officer, showed a Hawaii Superferry informational video, and then gave a presentation on the plans for the ferry service. Some environmental considerations that the company is taking are that the ship has no wastewater discharge, is the most energy efficient model, has no ballast tanks or propellers, is quiet, and has a low underwater profile. The company is looking at preliminary work for radar detection of whales for the future and is considering tracking whales using theodolites from shore. Mr. White explained Hawaii Superferry's whale avoidance strategy which includes: vessel design, approach policy (staying 500 yards away), routing (slower speeds and different routes during whale season), visual detection (two added lookouts, making a total of four, during whale season), shore-based theodolite use, technological detections (including radar, collision avoidance sonar, and night vision scopes), and avoidance procedures (course and speed changes). He explained that alternate routes might include going south of Penguin Bank and/or north of Molokai, and that the company is interested in the possibility of research and data collection.

Rob Parsons, Environmental Advisory to Mayor Alan Arakawa (County of Maui), provided a presentation representing concerns raised by Maui County citizens about the Hawaii Superferry. He pointed out that Mayor Arakawa has not taken a stand on the ferry and that there are economic benefits, but there are also environmental concerns. Mr. Parsons reviewed the document that he submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the Hawaii Superferry hearing on Maui. At the hearing the public asked that the company submit a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), not just an Environmental Assessment (EA). PUC's recommendation was that Hawaii Superferry should go through a comprehensive environmental review. Their decision is available on their website (<http://www.hawaii.gov/budget/puc/>). Maui County does require an EIS for Kahului Harbor improvements, however one is not required for the proposed ferry. Mr. Parsons said that he felt an EIS would help to mitigate some of the concerns. He invited Council members to inquire about the use of an Incidental Take Permit. June Harrigan-Lum reminded the Council that an EIS is not an enforceable document, but rather a disclosure document.

Mr. White addressed some of the concerns including that fee schedules are subject to change and federal funds are not being used. Hawaii Superferry has not found a trigger for either a state or federal EIS requirements, however the company is working on a voluntary basis to look at environmental issues on their own. He said that the company is hoping to form advisory councils to address concerns and that they will continue to work with the Mayors office and Sanctuary Advisory Council. Bill Friedl suggested looking into a model simulator to test some of these routes and potential of whale interaction.

Unfinished Business

- Terry O'Halloran asked about the status of the baseline study regarding vessel collisions. Marc Lammers said that the most important component of the study is the anonymous reporting system. Mr. Coon suggested the possibility of working with the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The group felt like the system should be up and running soon, so that the kinks could be worked out during this whale season, and suggested that reports be made for this season. The Council voted unanimously to expedite the reporting study encompassing the Ocean Tourism Coalition and research.

New Business

- Elect an interim vice-chair—Terry O'Halloran was elected by a unanimous vote.
- Resolution Supporting Increase Funding for the Sanctuary—The Council unanimously accepted the draft resolution with one change, which was to add "north pacific stock" to the first paragraph.

- Resolution in Support of Bill Lennan—The Council unanimously accepted the draft of the resolution thanking Bill Lennan for his work with the Council.
- June Harrigan-Lum notified the Council that Hawaii's Department of Health is revising the state's water quality standards. She will advise the council when the draft comes out for comments, however most of the changes are related to mosquito spraying and bacterial indicators.
- Boat Ramp Sign—Terry O'Halloran motioned to recommend putting up signs at all small boat harbors in the state. Teri Leicher seconded.
ACTION: Letter to DLNR asking to expedite the ramp signs and note that the State's Division of Boating and Recreation is willing to help with installation of the sign and asking to make this a priority. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Council unanimously voted to make Don Thornburg the chair of the Sanctuary Change Committee.

Public Forum

There were no additional comments from the public.

Announcements

- Naomi McIntosh informed the Council that Dr Haas' family would receive a plaque of appreciation at the next meeting.
- Eric Kingma announced that the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council will be starting public hearings regarding use of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Adjournment

Council Chair, Jim Coon, adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Attachment 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR 23RD HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, the waters of the State of Hawaii are the only areas in the United States where endangered humpback whales comes to breed, calf and nurse their young; and

WHEREAS, Congress established the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) in 1992 to protect endangered humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Sanctuary, which encompasses over 1,400 square nautical miles across all the main Hawaiian Islands, is one of the largest national marine sanctuaries in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawaii entered into a compact agreement for the coordinated co-management of the sanctuary, through which the State of Hawaii is considered an equal partner in the oversight of sanctuary operations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is designated as the State's lead agency in co-managing the sanctuary pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and the DLNR; and

WHEREAS, DLNR contributes in-kind, logistical and administrative costs valued at more than \$ 50,000 per year for co-managing the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, public education, scientific research and eco-tourism outreach activities conducted by sanctuary staff are essential to maintaining an environmentally sustainable whale-watching industry in Hawaii, an industry that generates more than \$ 30 million annually in local business revenues; and

WHEREAS, sanctuary staff provide educational activities in marine biology and ocean conservation to thousands of residents, visitors and school children every year; and

WHEREAS, over the last two years, the sanctuary has provided more than \$ 200,000 in research funding for Hawaii-based humpback whale research projects; and

WHEREAS, competition for increasingly limited Federal funds threatens to adversely impact NOAA's funding of the Sanctuary program; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Hawaii and its Congressional delegation continue to encourage and support the evolving federal-state partnership in implementing the Sanctuary's management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council), which is made up of 31 volunteers representing a wide variety of geographical and public/private interests, has been formed to advise the Secretary of Commerce and sanctuary management in implementing the sanctuary management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the sanctuary's current annual operating budget is clearly inadequate to successfully carry out the full range of research, education, and resource protection functions outlined in the sanctuary's management plan; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third Hawaii State Legislature strongly supports maintaining or increasing the budget allocated by Congress to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in FY 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third Hawaii State Legislature implores Congress and NOAA to allocate no less than \$ 2 million in operating funds for FY 2006 to enable the Sanctuary to adequately address its comprehensive research, monitoring, and education programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States; the Secretary of Commerce; the NOAA Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere; the Hawaii Congressional Delegation; appropriate House and Senate oversight and appropriations committees; the Governor of the State of Hawaii, and the Director of the State DLNR.

Attachment 2

| Action Item | Description | Date | Lead | Accomplishments | Next Steps | Deadline |
|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| The Council will write a letter in support of applying for a mini-grant for SPLASHED. | | 8-Sep-04 | Jeanne | | Draft Letter | 20-Jan-05 |
| Issues concerning the proposed high-speed ferry will be addressed by the Research Committee. | | 8-Sep-04 | Research, Vessel/Whale, Conservation | During the retreat it was determined that this task will be coordinated with the Vessel/Whale collision Committee and the Conservation Committee. | None | N/A |
| The Council will write a letter to NMSP director, Dan Basta, in support of increasing the sanctuary's budget emphasizing the importance of education, outreach, and research programs that would not be feasible if the sanctuary's budget is cut. | | 8-Sep-04 | Dick | | Draft Letter | ASAP |
| A motion passed to encourage finding funding to support the anonymous reporting effort that was drafted by the Research Committee. | | 8-Sep-04 | | The US Coast Guard has agreed to co-sponsor the study. | None | N/A |
| The Education Committee will address any future Naturalist Training issues. | | 8-Sep-04 | Teri L., Jeanne | | Some tasks need to transition from the disbanded Naturalist Training Working Group. | 20-Jan-05 |
| The Sanctuary Change Committee will look at enabling legislative alternatives for adding new species and focus on measures that will help to enhance education and outreach efforts instead of prohibiting regulations. | | 8-Sep-04 | Change | | | ? |

Attachment 3

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Manager's Report January 20, 2005

Council Updates

The selection of the following seats: Business/Commerce, Citizen at Large, Commercial Shipping, Conservation, Ocean Recreation, Tourism, and Whale Watching has been completed. The new SAC members were introduced and welcomed at the Retreat. A new member orientation was held on January 6, 2005.

The SAC held its second annual Retreat on December 2 – 3, 2004. The retreat consisted of one day for the full Council to be briefed on 2005 Sanctuary initiatives and 2004 accomplishments, to provide Council member only discussion time, and for the development of a few focused objectives for 2005. The second day provided an opportunity for the SAC Chair, Committee Chairs and Working Group Chairs to meet to discuss the implementation of the SAC 2005 objectives identified during the previous day's meetings. The meeting format for the second day provided such a great forum for the Chairs that they agreed to meet regularly as the reconvened Executive Committee to continue efforts to improve SAC processes and organization. The SAC Executive Committee held its second meeting by conference call on December 9th.

On January 13, the Education Committee held a conference call meeting to discuss: Naturalist training working group recommendations, National Marine Educators Association Conference, Sanctuary office needs, grants for SPLASH, Vessel Collision

Working Group education recommendations and boat rentals and jet ski operator education and outreach needs.

SAC Chair Jim Coon will provide Sanctuary Information Packets to key State legislative representatives on January 19 State Legislative Opening Day.

Education and Outreach

September 2004 to January 2005

Kristin Wilkinson, a University of Hawaii student, completed an internship in the Oahu office focusing on researching 17 marine mammal species that are found in Hawaiian waters. The research results were planned to be used to develop a training program that can be used by the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group and by the Sanctuary as well as educational one-pagers on each species that can be used for a variety of purposes. The unpaid internship fulfills the requirements for University class IS497. The Sanctuary has worked with a variety of interns that have been enrolled in this class for the last few years. Kristin was mentored by Christine Brammer, Oahu Programs Coordinator. Kristin recently returned to the Sanctuary to work as a Marine Options Program student intern on the Sanctuary Ocean Count.

Dr. Celia Smith, of UH, worked with Patty Miller, Maui Programs Coordinator to develop a partnership to place teachers on the Research vessel, KOK. Two Maui high school teachers spent 2 days on the ship during Celia's research dives in December. They have identified a new ecosystem in the Sanctuary waters, called the meadows, a huge bed of seaweed filled with unique critters such as the skunk urchin (has a tail just like a skunk). Scientists worked with the students of these classrooms before the dives and teachers were able to interact via a live feed through the internet with the students while out at sea. The internet feed is being made available through the Akimeka Digital Bus. This was a trial run for future projects.

Students at Kamalii Elementary on Maui are developing two website projects based on the fishpond adjacent to the Sanctuary. Staff worked with the students to introduce life in the fishpond. The school will be spent several days at the site as they pursued their research.

A special insert entitled, Hawaii's Ocean Treasures was distributed in the November 10th edition of the Honolulu Advertiser. The insert was also delivered to schools around the state as part of the Honolulu Advertiser's Newspapers in Education program. The insert which was developed by the sanctuary, features information on sanctuaries, humpback whales, marine protected species and more. Over 15 other organizations helped to sponsor the insert.

On Thursday October 14th sanctuary staff participated in the Teacher's Institute Day at the Keahou Theatres in Kona. The Sanctuary hosted an information booth and had the

opportunity to meet and discuss future opportunities with local teachers. Sanctuary activity books and other information were distributed. Sanctuary staff also took part in the Kaua'i Teacher's Institute Day.

The NMSP Online Encyclopedia Project is well underway in the Pacific. The education staff of HIHWNMS and the Reserve worked with Michael Hanrahan of the Ocean Channel (www.ocean.com) to finalize media and content for the Encyclopedia. This exciting project, coordinated through the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, allows web site visitors to explore NMS sites through video, images and informative content about the flora and fauna of the sites. Several sanctuaries already have live encyclopedias. For more information visit:

<http://www.ocean.com/Library/Encyclopedia/>

Hans Van Tilburg, Maritime Archeologist, NMSP Pacific Region visited Assets High School in Honolulu and conducted an informal learning session with educator Gregg Bell's english class. The students were close to completing *In the Heart of the Sea: the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick, and this provided an opportunity to discuss maritime history in the Hawaiian Islands, whaling ship losses within sanctuary boundaries, heritage management within the NMSP, and the many links between New England and the Pacific raised by the twin topics of whales and whaling. NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program is focusing on whaling as a theme which unites distant locations and highlights the relationships between culture (whaling history) and the environment (habitat and species conservation).

Christine Brammer and Carey Morishige, Education Specialist, organized various activities for Whale Month 2005 which is taking place on Oahu in the month of January. Whale month is featuring a variety of events, ranging from a lecture series that will be offered in three locations around the island as well as lunchtime shoreline whale watches and the ever-popular Sanctuary Ocean Count. See the event calendar on the sanctuary website (hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov) for more information. Also in development for February on Oahu is a new program that will be called "Whales Afterschool".

On Kauai, 60 people participated in the sanctuary's 2-day humpback whale and Marine Mammal Training conducted by naturalist Steve Zeff on November 30 and December 1.

Preparation work for the Sanctuary's annual Ocean Count project is continuing. Our three interns from the University of Hawaii's Marine Option Program have been working hard alongside Education Specialist, Carey Morishige. Registration of volunteers has been ongoing and sites have already begun to fill up.

Christine Brammer trained volunteers from Le Jardin School so that they could offer the sanctuary's interactive humpback whale fluke identification game as part of their annual Science Fair.

Sanctuary education and outreach staff on Oahu are recruiting teachers and schools for this year's school-based Ocean Count. The counts will be held January 28th, February 25,

and March 18th at the Makapuu Point Lighthouse. In addition, applications are also being accepted for Whales After School, a new after school education program that will take place each Tuesday and Thursday in February and March.

Sanctuary Lecture Series features:

- **Karen Flynn, of the Great Barrier Reef Authority, presented an evening lecture on "Re-zoning the Great Barrier Reef" at the Maui office.**
- A lecture at the Maui office on beach erosion was given by Mike Harding a specialist from San Diego. The audience participated in talks that focused on what causes erosion and methods on how to control erosion.
- **The Maui site sponsored a lecture entitled, "Mysteries of the Deep" by University of Hawaii graduate students studying new and unexplored ecosystems off the coast of Maui. The lecture was exciting, informative and well attended. This lecture was also presented at local high schools around the island.**
- **The sanctuary hosted a lecture and training series by marine mammal researcher, Mark Deakos throughout the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, and Kauai in December.**

Education Center visitors:

- **Aloha House drug rehabilitation center sent twenty-four adults to participate in learning sessions on humpback whales and the fishpond.**
- **138 first graders from Kihei Elementary School visited the site for classroom instruction on humpback whales, turtles, and the fishpond.**
- **Kaunoa Senior Center visited the Maui site to learn about the restoration of the Maui fishpond.**
- The Horizon Academy of high school students for humpback whale and fishpond lessons.
- Kamalii School, 5th graders developing a cyber-net project on the fishpond.
- Lokilani Elementary School for a lesson on fish adaptations.
- The Maui site hosted an afternoon educational event for an Elder Hostel group. They participated in a humpback whale presentation and other educational activities. More Elder Hostel groups will be visiting on a monthly basis.

Science and Rescue

The Sanctuary Research team has kicked off the SPLASH program in December for the winter 2005 Season!! Sanctuary staff went out on the water and saw quite a few whales off the Kona Coast. They were able to get some great early season photos and biopsy samples!!

The SPLASH research team began working off of Maui during the first week of January. Science and Rescue Coordinator David Mattila and Research Assistant Allan Ligon also

conducted a training session for University of Hawaii researchers.

Other

Incident and Stranding Response

On Thursday morning, January 6th, a pilot flying an ultralight plane near Kauai reported seeing an entangled humpback whale off Port Allen on the island's west side. A team of Sanctuary-trained "first responders" (including Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza and two harbor masters from Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources) were deployed to locate the whale, assess its condition and attach a buoy with a transmitter. David Mattila arrived on Kauai later in the evening to lead the effort to relocate the animal. In spite of assistance from many Kauai residents (including pilots, boat operators, and kayakers) who were on the lookout for the whale and U.S. Navy and NOAA Fisheries personnel who were monitoring the situation and ready to assist, the animal has not been sighted again.

On January 15, 2005 HIHWNMS Staff helped to coordinate a multi-agency response to the live stranding of a mother and calf pygmy sperm whale. The whales beached, in rough surf, just over a mile from the Sanctuary's Kihei, Maui site. David Mattila, and visiting NOAA Fisheries' biologist, Annie Gorgone, coordinated the onsite efforts to stabilize and assess the situation. The mother and calf beached separately were brought together and held by volunteers in order to prevent them from rolling in the surf. After consultation with veterinarians over the phone, the animals were carefully transported to the Hawaiian fishpond adjacent to the Sanctuary site so that they could be held in calmer waters into the night, and until the arrival of the veterinarian from Oahu. Sanctuary site manager, Patty Miller, and grounds staff, Joe Fell-Macdonald, organized the volunteers and logistics for a possible overnight vigil (e.g. lights, food, warm clothes...etc.). NOAA Fisheries coordinator, Jill Komoto, arrived with the veterinarian, Greg Levine (from the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group). Dr. Levine's medical assessment, along with the advice of all of the agencies involved, was taken into consideration, and it was unanimously decided that the only humane course of action was to euthanize the animals. Pygmy sperm whales are offshore, deep-water animals, with a very poor record of recovery from stranding situations. A full necropsy was performed on the female at the Sanctuary site the following day. Sanctuary volunteers and the public were allowed to view the process with educational interpretation provided by Sanctuary educational staff. Some of the agencies involved included: NOAA Fisheries PIRO, NOAA Sanctuaries HIHWNMS, NOAA OLE, USCG (Maui), Hawaii State DLNR (DOCARE and DAR), Maui Police Department, Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group, Maui Ocean Center, Fishpond Association of Maui, Hawaii Wildlife Fund.

Operations

The Maui site re-evaluated and updated the site's fire safety plan and all first-aid kits.

The Maui Education Center had air conditioning installed! Visitors suddenly seem to be staying longer than before!

The Maui site welcomed several new members to the staff:

- Amanda Cummins and Erica Busatto are joining the research team for the season.
- John Mitchell has joined the Education team. The Hawaii Department of Education has sponsored him to work on monitoring projects for middle and high school students.
- NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement has a team of four agents who will be rotating duty based from the HIHWNMS Maui office for the next three months.

The Sanctuary recently said goodbye to Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Education Specialist. Joylynn left her position with the Sanctuary to work with Maui's invasive species program.

Cindy Hylkema, Volunteer and Facilities Coordinator, Liz Russell, Maui administrative assistant and Joe Fell-McDonald, Building maintenance and groundskeeper also announced that they would be leaving their positions with the Sanctuary. We will miss them dearly and wish them all the best of luck with their new endeavors.

Partnerships

Cindy Hylkema along with a student intern, and two volunteers assisted the Maui County Get the Drift and Bag it campaign to distribute supplies and solicit donations of food to participating sites on the Island. Oahu Sanctuary staff also participated in Get the Drift and Bag it, a Sea Grant project which cleans beaches and records information on the trash being collected.

On Tuesday September 14th, 2004 Justin Viezbicke, the Marine Conservation Coordinator for the Kona office, gave a presentation as part of Sea Grant's local "Reeftalk". The presentation focused on the sanctuary and its goals for the upcoming year.

Sanctuary staff on Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island have been working with HISRG (Hawaiian Island Stranding Response Group) to host a public meetings that discussed how the local community can get involved with and be an integral part of stranding responses throughout the State.

The Maui site co-sponsored the "Storm Drain Stenciling Project" on Maui in collaboration with Sea Grant. Jaimie Ellison, a 6-month intern for the sanctuary from Santa Cruz, California was the Sanctuary's lead on the project. The stenciling project utilized volunteers to stencil a message onto storm drains that says "Don't dump, drains to ocean" and features either a fish or a humpback whale outline.

Kona Sanctuary staff partnered with UH Sea Grant to continue working with the local residents of Milolii. This effort is a continuing partnership effort that is part of the Coast Watch program. This past week the project focused on fish and invertebrate identification with a special emphasis on size and how large each animal needs to be to reproduce so that they can continue to utilize the benefits of the ocean for years to come. The week

was finished off with each child, and some adults too, getting to make their own humpback whale out of food while we discussed anatomy and regulations concerning the whales.

Christine Brammmer gave an hour-long presentation on Hawaii's Marine Protected Species to thirty new volunteers at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. The education and volunteer program at Hanauma Bay is run by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program. Many of Hanauma Bay's volunteers also work with the Sanctuary program as volunteers on projects such as the Sanctuary Ocean Count.

On Saturday, November 6, 2004 the sanctuary sponsored a Marine Mammal Evening at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve in partnership with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program. The evening featured guest speakers, interactive activities and displays of current research.

Justin Viezbicke attended the Waikoloa Whale Center one-year anniversary at the Waikoloa Marriot Saturday December 4th. There he had booth set up for guests to get information about whales through fun games and activities.

Preliminary agreements have been reached with the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort for the provision to the Sanctuary of \$1,000 worth of conference rooms for sanctuary training sessions in exchange for sanctuary-staffed shore-based whale watches, temporary whale displays, and a mini whale festival.

Maui site sponsored a booth at the Grand Wailea Resort & Spa's environmental fair in December. The event's focus was to give the employees background on environmental events and organizations to better their interaction with the tourists.

The HIIWNMS Kauai staff is using a variety of new methods to reach students, teachers and parents. Jean Souza has participated in Science Night at Wilcox Elementary School in Lihue (October 13) during which 50 families of first and second graders were invited to learn more about sounds. The sanctuary's focus was on humpback whale songs. On November 6, the Sanctuary had an activity booth at the first annual craft fair at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School in Puhi. Discussions are under way for sanctuary activity booths at upcoming fairs and special events at Kilauea Elementary School art and science fair on the island's north shore and at Eleele Elementary School on the island's westside.

Discussions are underway to erect temporary Sanctuary displays at various locations around Kauai. A humpback whale and Hawaiian monk seal display will be installed in January at Princeville Public Library (on north shore). Other displays will be installed at the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort (on east shore) and at vacant store frontage at Port Allen Harbor (on Westside), which is homeport for a large segment of Kauai's tour boat industry. The displays to be used include those previously developed and funded.

The Maui site co-sponsored an event on Sunday, January 9, with the Sanctuary's non-profit partner, Ao ao O Na Loko I'a O Maui ("Association of the Fishponds of Maui").

The event was a dedication ceremony to celebrate the revitalization of the rock wall of the Ko'le'ie Loko I'a ("rapid current"), the royal Hawaiian fishpond, fronting the Sanctuary property. The event included cultural blessings, chanting and dancing by the Kihei Canoe Club and a Warriors of Lahaina (a local dance troupe). The event began with the arrival of several traditional canoes, with conch shell blowers announcing the event. Guest speakers included Congressman Ed Case, NMSP Pacific Region Coordinator Allen Tom, Rob Parsons, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa's environmental coordinator, and Kimokeo Kapahulehua, president of the fishpond association (and HIIWNMS Advisory Council member). About one hundred and fifty people showed up for the event despite the constant rain that was "blessing" the event. The original fishpond wall is estimated to have been built between 1400-1500 A.D. Volunteers will rebuild the new wall using traditional methods. The fishpond is an important center for educational, archaeological, cultural, and recreational activities. Ao ao O Na Loko I'a O Maui offers on-going programs for school groups and the public.

Christine Brammer and Carey Morishige participated in Kailua High School's Career Fair on January 5, 2005. During the fair, approximately 500 9th to 12th grade students visited booths and questioned participants about career possibilities in their field of interest. A variety of students and teachers were interested in the sanctuary and we were able to effectively promote current volunteer positions for the upcoming whale season on Oahu in addition to career information.

Justin Viezbicke facilitated a whale watch for group of students and educators from Milolii. The event was co-sponsored by Ocean Sports, who was gracious enough to donate their boat for 2 hours. Although the whales that we saw were quite a distance from the boat, the group had a great time and the students were able to identify blows, breaches, and deep diving flukes.

Facilities

The Oahu Sanctuary office has co-located with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and the National Marine Sanctuary Program's Pacific Islands Region. An Open House was celebrated for the new office on Friday, December 10th.

Even though the Oahu-based NMSP staff has just moved into a new office, they are already giving input for their next proposed move. HIIWNMS, NWHI CRER, and regional staff provided comments on the draft Facility Requirements Report for the new NOAA Pacific Region Center in Honolulu. In addition to housing all Honolulu-based NOAA offices (~450 staff) including the National Marine Sanctuary Program there will also be a visitor center, labs and dock space for the NOAA vessels. This new facility is proposed for Ford Island in the Pearl Harbor area and would be completed in 2009.

Miscellaneous

The HIIWNMS attended and presented at the Marine Mammal Commission meeting held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, October 26 through October 28.

Justin Viezbicke met with Jeff Pollack from NOAA Fisheries OLE and Jan Ostman-Lind

of the Nature Conservancy to discuss Big Island issues in relation to dolphin and whale watching regulations and wild swim-with-dolphin programs. Jeff Pollack expressed interest in working with the Sanctuary to increase signage at certain areas and develop a Coast Watch-type of program to get community members involved in managing resources.

Jean Souza will be featured in the *Kauai Weekly* the week of January 10, 2005. The article will be focused on Sanctuary outreach programs and SPLASH research efforts on Kauai.

Heads up

National Marine Educators Association 2005 meeting will be held on Maui, Hawaii, July 11 to July 15, 2005. For more information visit:
<http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05.html>

Attachment 4

January 14, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Subject: HIHWNMS state office update for the period of September 2, 2004 through January 14, 2005 (Prepared for the January 20, 2005, Council meeting).

State Humpback Whale Research Permits

The state sanctuary office has overseen the issuance of 13 permits for this whale season. The permittees are listed below.

2005 STATE OF HAWAII PERMITTED WHALE RESEARCHERS

| Permit # | Investigator | Co-Investigator | Affiliation |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|
| SH2005-01 | Louis M. Herman, Ph.D. | Adam A. Pack, Ph.D. | University of Hawaii Kewalo Basin Laboratory |
| SH2005-02 | Robin Baird | Daniel Webster Dan McSweeney Greg Schorr | Cascadia Research Collective |
| SH2005-03 | Dan R. Salden, Ph.D. | | Hawaii Whale Research Foundation |
| SH2005-04 | David Mattila | Allan Ligon | Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary |
| SH2005-05 | Suzanne Yin | Adam Frankel, Ph.D., Christine Gabriele, and Susan H. Rickards | Hawaii Marine Mammal Consortium |
| SH2005-06 | Joseph R. Mobley, Jr., Ph.D. | | University of Hawaii - West Oahu |
| SH2005-07 | Marc O. Lammers, Ph.D. | | Oceanwide Science Institute |
| SH2005-08 | Jim Darling, Ph.D. | | West Coast Whale Research Foundation |
| SH2005-11 | Ann Zoidis | Tom Norris | Tetra Tech |
| SH2005-9 | Deborah A. Glockner-Ferrari | Mark J. Ferrari | Center for Whale Studies |
| SH2005-10 | Lloyd F. Lowry | Kathryn J. Frost | University of Alaska, Fairbanks |
| SH2005-12 | Marsha Green | | Albright College |
| SH2005-13 | Mark Deakos | | Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc. |

Research Administration

The state office is administering NOAA SPLASH research funds for this winter's fluke ID and biopsy sampling in Hawaiian waters. Thus far, approximately \$90K has been awarded to six organizations for eight teams around the state (Kauai – 1, Oahu – 1, Maui – 5, Big Island – 1). The organizations will be announced as soon as the procurement paperwork has been finalized.

The state office also administered travel procurement for the SPLASH steering committee (11 members from 5 different countries) to meet in Vancouver, B.C., in mid November.

Research Field Support

Kona-based marine conservation coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, assisted NOAA's Dr. Robin Baird in surveying beaked whales in waters off West Hawaii in late September, during which a rare Cuvier's beaked whale was observed.

Viezbicke and Oahu-based marine conservation specialist, David Nichols, assisted SPLASH research activities (fluke ID and biopsy sampling) aboard the sanctuary vessel ManaCat off the Kona coast from December 15 – 21.

Marine Mammal Stranding Response

State staff arranged and facilitated a meeting on September 15 between principals of the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group (HISRG) and Big Island DLNR (DOCARE and DAR) staff to coordinate state agency participation in marine mammal stranding responses on Hawaii. (HISRG is a not-for-profit organization that has been established by local stranding experts and permitted by NMFS to respond to strandings of non-ESA-listed marine mammals.) State staff also facilitated a meeting in Kailua-Kona on the evening of September 15 for community members interested in joining the HISRG volunteer response network for the West Hawaii area. Viezbicke also facilitated follow-up HISRG community meetings on January 5 and 6, in which human safety, animal ID and organizational issues were discussed.

On October 4-8, Nichols represented the state during the meeting of the 2005 Prescott grant technical review panel meeting held in Lansdowne, VA. The review panel review applications for Prescott grants, which are issued by NOAA Fisheries to NGO's and local government agencies to build local marine mammal stranding response capabilities.

A dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia sima*) stranded near Mokapu on Maui on Thanksgiving day. The animal stranded alive, but expired shortly thereafter. Maui sanctuary staff assisted NMFS staff Brad Ryon and contract veterinarian Dr. Greg Levine with the necropsy. No state staff were directly involved with this incident, but Walters helped identify carcass disposal options and a state vehicle was used to transport the animal to the necropsy site.

A striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) stranded dead near Hickam on Oahu on Christmas day and a necropsy was immediately performed by NMFS staff Ryon and a contract veterinarian Levine. No sanctuary staff participated in this response.

Education and Outreach

Big Island - Kona-based marine conservation coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, conducted a variety of education and outreach activities during the reporting period. In late September, he served as a guest lecturer at the UH Sea Grant-sponsored "Reef Talk," presenting an overview of the sanctuary and new emphasis on Big Island research and education efforts. On September 30 and October 1, Justin partnered with UH SeaGrant, Dolphin Quest, and the Kula Naia Foundation in a special educational event for Waimea area school children. The two-day event brought in over 100 kids to learn about the marine environment and ways they can help protect it. On October 4, Justin again partnered with UH SeaGrant at Miliolii, providing educational sessions to local kids centered on marine conservation. Justin also staffed an informational booth at the Teacher's Institute Day on October 14 in Kailua-Kona. Justin also helped coordinate and attended the sanctuary-sponsored volunteer training lecture presented by researcher Mark Deakos on December 7. On Thursday November 18th and Friday November 19th Justin partnered with Koloko-Honokohau NHP and Hawaii Volcanoes NP staff for the Kaloko-Honokohau Cultural Education Day in which 300+ local school kids visited the park to learn about Hawaiian Culture and the importance of the environment. Activities included cast netting, Hawaiian games, huki lau weaving, ipu making, and a fishing game that taught kids correct sizes of fish to keep and many other educational and informative activities. Finally, Justin coordinated a free whale watch tour for 18 Miliolii community youth on January 4. The whale watch was donated by Waikoloa-based Ocean Sports.

Oahu – The sanctuary co-manager help coordinate and served as a panelist on the "OHA Roundtable" show that aired on Olelo channel 53 on Tuesday, October 26 at 7 PM. Maui programs coordinator, Patty Miller, Hawaiian cultural educator Joylynn Oliveira, and sanctuary volunteer Kimokeo Kapahulehua also sat on the panel. The show highlighted the sanctuary's cultural education and training programs regarding Native Hawaiian ocean stewardship and traditional practices. Two versions of the sanctuary's "cultural poster," a state office-led project, were finalized and printed in mid October. The posters are available as pdf file on the sanctuary website - http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/special_offerings/sp_off/publications.html. David Nichols presented a poster and staffed a research display booth during the Marine Conservation Evening at Hanauma Bay, co-sponsored by the sanctuary (led by Chris Brammer, Oahu programs coordinator) and other partners, on November 13. In late November, the state office also finalized the December issue of sanctuary newsletter. The newsletter, focusing on recent research accomplishments, was mailed to over 5,000 recipients. A 2-

page article, written by the sanctuary co-manager, about whales, the sanctuary, and ways fishermen can avoid whale-vessel collisions and whale entanglements was published in the December issue of *Hawaii Fishing News*. David Nichols replaced the whale viewing scope (acquired by Chris Brammer) at the top of the Makapuu lighthouse trail on December 9.

Boater Outreach Project

Boat Ram Sign - The sign design has been finalized (see attached reduced version) with input from HOST and others (see meeting report below). We are currently working with a local sign company to fabricate six aluminum versions of the sign. Sanctuary operations coordinator, Paul Wong, is also getting one polymer/laminate sign produced free of charge as a demo version from a mainland-based company. Based on small boat use levels and proximate whale densities, the following have been identified as priority locations to install the first set of signs.

1. Haleiwa harbor ramp (O`ahu)
2. Maalaea harbor ramp (Maui)
3. Kehei ramp “
4. Lahaina harbor “
5. Mala wharf ramp “
6. Honokohau harbor ramp (Big Island)
7. TBD

These are all DoBOR facilities and we will continue to work closely with the DoBOR staff responsible for these locations. We currently plan on installing the signs during the month of February. These signs will be affixed to two poles anchored in cement.

Our current plan is to remove these boater safety signs at the end of the whale season (end of May) and replace them with interpretive signage about the sanctuary and Hawaii's marine wildlife. This new interpretative signage is now possible because HIIWNMS was awarded new funds for signage out of a separate source of FY 05 federal funds (PAC funds). The boater safety signs will be re-installed at the beginning of each whale season (November), while the interpretive signs will remain up all year. Meeting with Hawaii Ocean Safety Team (HOST) subcommittee - Wednesday, November 10, 2004, 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Chris Brammer and Jeff Walters met with Susan Harper (Subcommittee Chair), Robin Bond (HOST Advisory Board Chair) and several other HOST members (USCG, USCG Aux, charter captain, recreational boaters, etc.) during their monthly offshore boating safety (fishing and cruising) subcommittee meeting. The group critiqued our draft boat ramp sign and we further discussed various ways the sanctuary could interface with small boat operators to get our messages out. The discussion led to the following points of agreement:

1. The boat ramp sign was very well liked. Some members suggested that the arrow be thicker, and a couple of vessels on the outside of the circle – maybe a cruiser and a kayak – should be added.
2. As far as other products, we should focus on attractive products on marine wildlife, no need to worry about adding other elements (e.g., safety stuff) to make it more attractive to boaters – “there will always be someone on the vessel who's interested in whales, dolphins, seals or turtles.” The sentiment was that HOST, DOBOR and USCG can take care of the boater safety stuff and we can focus on the marine wildlife topics.
3. A card depicting common marine mammals on one side and a modified version of the boat ramp sign on the other was endorsed as an attractive product. Stickers and children-oriented items were also thought to be good products.

4. USCG Auxiliary members, closely linked with HOST, will happily distribute any products we produce during their frequent outreach efforts on and around the water. They could probably distribute approximately 2,000 products per year.
5. The Hawaii Kai conference room was offered to the group on January 22, 2005 to hold the first of a new boater safety seminar they are developing. "Safe vessel operation around marine wildlife" or something along those lines may become one of the many topics covered in the seminar.

In summary, it was a very productive and useful meeting. We connected with a key focus group and constituent group that can give us excellent, credible feedback on our products and approach and also help us distribute our products and messages as they are developed.

Monk Seal Conservation

The co-manager represented DLNR at the October 29 and 30 meeting of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team, where the seals' new endangered species recovery plan was finalized for submission to NOAA NMFS.

On November 12th in Poipu, Kauai, Walters represented DLNR at a debriefing meeting of staff and volunteers who managed the monk seal pup safety zones in September during the pups' six-week nursing period at Poipu and Mahaleapu beaches.

The Governor's approval to fill the Kaua'i Marine Conservation Coordinator was received in late November. An ad announcing the position opening is expected to run in the Garden Island newspaper in late January.

Vessels

In late September, state staff worked on acquiring and donating a 24' Shamrock cabin cruiser to the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group (HISRG). Formerly used as a DOCARE enforcement vessel in West Hawaii waters, the Shamrock was graciously donated to HISRG by DOCARE via DAR. The vessel needs a new engine, electronics and a lot more work to be functional, but HISRG plans on making the necessary repairs as funds become available. HISRG hopes to use the vessel for rapid response to remote areas, at-sea releases of rehabilitated animals, and towing and at-sea disposal of carcasses when appropriate. Staff assisted in repairing the boat's trailer and in shipping it from Kona to Oahu.

In mid October, Nichols assisted with maintenance and repair of the 40' NOAA vessel ManaCat and subsequent channel crossing relocation from Oahu to Maui. The ManaCat spent the summer being repaired and stored at the DAR Anuenue Fishery Research Center on Sand Island. Nichols also crewed the ManaCat back from Maui to Oahu on January 10 for emergency repairs. At the time of this writing, the prognosis is good for a complete repair of the ManaCat and it is expected to be back in service by late January.

UFO Parasailing vs. DLNR

On December 14, 2004, U.S. District Judge Susan Oki Mollway granted a 30-day stay of her decision overturning a state ban on thrillcraft and parasailing during whale season on Maui (HAR 13-256-12). The stay allows the state to enforce the seasonal closure, while a final legal decision is worked out. Mollway's actions followed approval of a new federal law that gave the state the authority to create regulations to protect humpback whales in its waters. The law was included as a provision of the federal Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which was signed by President Bush in early December.

The co-manager has been in close coordination with Deputy Attorney General William Wynhoff throughout the course of this legal matter.

Marine Mammal Commission Annual Meeting

State sanctuary staff provided logistical assistance and gave presentations on DLNR/Sanctuary monk seal and dolphin conservation initiatives at the annual meeting of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, in Kailua-Kona on October 26 - 28. The sanctuary co-manager also assisted DLNR Chairman Peter Young during a panel discussion hosted by the commission regarding state and federal spinner dolphin conservation efforts.

US FWS Grant for State Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The state office is currently reviewing applications for 2 positions associated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (US FWS) State Wildlife Grants program to develop a conservation strategy for Hawaii's aquatic wildlife. The strategy will include conservation recommendations for marine mammals and sea turtles. It is expected that these recommendations will help inform the sanctuary staff and advisory council regarding the possible addition of new species to the sanctuary.

Bill Devick Retires as DAR Administrator

After over 30 years with the Division of Aquatic Resources and six years as its Administrator, William S. Devick retired on December 31. Bill was always a great supporter of the sanctuary. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Francis Oishi is serving as Acting Administrator. The Department recently advertised to fill the position.

Other Activities, Meetings, Etc.

- 1) September 3 – Walters and Nichols attended dedication of new NOAA vessel Hi'ialakai.
- 2) September 8 – state office staff attended SAC meeting
- 3) September 15 – Viezbicke attended West Hawaii Fishery Management Council meeting.
- 4) October 14 – Walters attended WPRFMC meeting for agenda items re NWHI CRER.
- 5) October 20 – Walters attended meeting with MCBH reps re USFWS SWG grant to develop aquatic wildlife conservation strategy.
- 6) November 10 – Walters joined other staff in meeting with NMSP rep re new "Ocean Etiquette" program.
- 7) November 17 - Viezbicke attended West Hawaii Fishery Management Council meeting.
- 8) December 2-3 – State staff attended Sanctuary Advisory Council annual retreat.
- 9) December 6 – Walters attended DAR-DOCARE workshop on marine enforcement issues.
- 10) December 9 – Viezbicke attended public hearing in Kona regarding the proposed new rules for the West Hawaii Fishery Management Area.
- 11) December 10 – Walters attended the Hawaii Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee meeting.
- 12) December 15 – Viezbicke met with Special Agent Jeffrey Pollack regarding marine mammal harassment issues along the Kona coast.
- 13) December 15 - Viezbicke attended West Hawaii Fishery Management Council meeting.

- 14) December 23 – Walters and Nichols represented DLNR in a meeting with NOAA Fisheries PIRO PRD staff and consultants regarding the state's ESA Section 10 permit for incidental take of monk seals and sea turtles associated with state-managed fisheries.
- 15) January 5 – Walters attended a HOST committee meeting regarding the boater safety seminar to be held at the Hawaii Kai sanctuary office on the morning of January 22.

cc: Peter T. Young, DLNR Chairperson
Yvonne Y. Izu, DLNR Deputy Director
Francis G. Oishi, Acting DLNR-DAR Administrator
Allen Tom, NMSP Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator
Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Manager

Attachment



Attachment 5

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT January 20th, 2004

Marc O. Lammers, Chair

The Research Committee did not officially meet during the period following the last SAC meeting. However, informal email discussions were held between members of the committee (M. Lammers) and SAC members concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Superferry. It was agreed at the December retreat that the Research and Conservation Committees would hold a joint meeting to discuss how to best address

issues of concern during the upcoming year. It is expected that agendas and action items for the next several months will be identified for both committees during this joint meeting.

Attachment 6

Education Committee Report

Presented by Jeanne Russell

Lots of educational efforts are on going around the state. For the best resource of information turn to the website for details. Some of the highlights are Ocean Count which starts on January 29, 2005, and there are a number of Reef Talks and lectures throughout the islands.

On January 13, 2005 the Education Committee had a conference call. In attendance were Teri Leicher, Keeley Belva, Jeff Walters, Paul Wong, Chris Brammer and Jeanne Russell.

The first item for discussion was the transition of the Naturalist Training Working Group to the Education Committee. Teri will draft a letter of thanks to all members of the working group and included will be the results of the survey and a request of the members to be available if needed. Teri had a larger vision of the direction she would like the Naturalist Training to go in. She will write up a short synopsis of what that vision is. Also she will supply the Education Committee with a list of the members and their contact information.

The Education Committee requested information on the upcoming NMEA Conference on Maui on July 11-16, 2005. We will follow that closely and see if we can be of assistance there.

There was a general discussion regarding how the Education Committee might better serve the SAC. The discussion continues and a suggestion was made to Jim Coon to find out what other Education Committees at other SACs do when he attends the SAC Chairs meeting.

After speaking with Patty, she mentioned that we can help get funding for SPLASH by researching grants on-line that deal with water sheds, environmental and marine education and/or any whale-related or marine life grants.

Lastly we have decided to have regularly scheduled conference calls on the second Thursday of the month. Our next call will be February 17, 2005 at 12:00 p.m.

Attachment 7

Hawaii Island County Report 20 January 05 Sara Peck, Representative

Accomplishments:

1. Three ReefTalks were held in West Hawaii :
October: Robin Baird on his marine mammal research in Kona
November: Jacqui Hoover on NELHA's Gateway Energy Project in Waimea
December: Jacqui Hoover on NELHA's Gateway Energy Project in Kona
2. Two Kawaihae Local Resource Council Meetings were held.
3. Held 3 Alien Algae workshops for teachers and ReefWatchers: gave out 135 Alien and Native Algae, ReefWatcher's Guide for Hawaii field guides.

Events Attended: All of the above listed under Accomplishments. Three West Hawaii Fishery Council (WHFC) meetings.

> December 9th Public Hearing on HAR Rule Package for the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area: approximately 213 people attended, 15 middle and high school students; of the 29 testifiers, 27 were in support of the rule package, and the other two were in support of the concept if not the text.

> Governor's Advisory Meeting on Jan. 9th. with the Department of Transportation Director.

> Laboratories for the 21st Century Workshop November 17th, a national initiative to reduce the energy consumption of scientific laboratories sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and hosted by the U.H. Sea Grant College Program and U.H. Center for Smart Building and Community Designs.

> November 19th the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce Environment and Natural Resources Committee hosted an unexpectedly well attended Environment and Natural Resources Conference. Over 200 people attended representing a broad range of stakeholders. The planners expected 120 participants. This surprise showing supports the notion that the public wants to take action to build communities and businesses that retain quality of life and environmental integrity.

Hot Topics:

WHFC: HAR Rule Package Follow-Up. Spear Fishing with SCUBA

Kawaihae LRC and Big Island West Side: Superferry, Kawaihae Harbor Plans

West Hawaii In General: Traffic, rapid development/expansion lacking infrastructure to support the fast-paced changes.

Announcements:

> ReefWatcher's Appreciation Day: Sat. March 12th at Old Kona Airport, Pavilion #3, 9am -12 noon

> Fifth Annual Coral Reef Awareness Day on Earth Day, April 24th at Kahalu'u Beach Park 10am to 2pm. Fun and Games for Families.